



Minnesota Woodlands

MFA: an organization of, by and for Minnesota's private woodland owners and friends.

www.MinnesotaForestry.org

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MFA Newsletter
Vol. 16 No. 5
October/November 2014
The Minnesota Woodlands newsletter is published by the Minnesota Forestry Association.

MFA Board Meetings
Cambridge DNR Office, 10 am – 3 pm
• October 14, 2014

Conference Calls
8 – 9 am
• November 18, 2014
• December 16, 2014

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Announcing a Trial Program for ... Boots on YOUR Ground

A top desire of many woodland owners is to have a knowledgeable forester walk their woods with them. As a result, we're happy to announce our trial Boots on the Ground Program. Currently, **the trial program is limited to woodland owners with land in four counties: Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison and Todd.** If the program works as we hope it will, other counties will be added soon.

Here's how it works:

For just \$50, you get a two-hour visit from a professional forester. The two hours can be spent walking your woods, or sitting at your kitchen table while discussing your questions and plans, or a combination of the two.

You contribute to the cost with a check for \$50 sent to MFA along with the application enclosed. Once the check and application are received, Carol Cartie, MFA's office staff person, will call you to arrange a date and time for the forester visit.

If you have questions after the visit, members can follow up using MFA's Forester Phone Line at no charge (218-326-6486).

This program is coordinated by the Minnesota Forestry Association under a grant from the MN DNR Division of Forestry with funds from the US Forest Service to implement the Call Before You Cut program.



Retired DNR forester Dean Makey is shown with landowner and former MFA president, Maury Schwen. Dean has agreed to do the initial landowner visits but other foresters will be added as the program is expanded to more counties.



Bob Sonnenberg

Perpetual Membership #1

With encouragement from Bob Sonnenberg, New York Mills, the partners of Sonnenberg Farms L.L.P. have voted to become MFA's first perpetual member. Eighty percent of the one-time dues payment of \$3,000 goes into our Endowment Account where the earnings will be more than sufficient to maintain the membership in perpetuity.

MFA's Perpetual Membership is for any estate, corporation, limited liability company, limited liability partnership or similarly structured entity. The entity designates one person to receive all mailings and materials from MFA and to cast its one vote in elections.

The purpose of the Perpetual Membership is to offer information and encouragement to the partners as they work to maintain the land in a sustainable manner such that it is passed on to future generations in ever better condition.

Minnesota Forestry
Association

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MFA Board Actions

The MFA board meets every month. During January, April, July and October. The meeting is face-to-face at the Cambridge DNR Forestry office starting at 10 a.m. During all other months, the meeting is held via conference call. Any MFA member is welcome to sit in on the face-to-face meetings and listen in on the conference calls. See the list of board members and meeting dates elsewhere in this newsletter. Contact any board member for further information. For a copy of minutes from any recent meeting, contact Carol Cartie at Information@MinnesotaForestry.org or 218-326-6486.

Met with Keith Argow, president of the National Woodland Owners Association, to discuss how our organizations can support each other.

Agreed to move ahead with a trial Boots on the Ground program by which landowners can have a two-hour visit from a professional forester. The landowner contributes just \$50 to the cost of this service. This program will be coordinated by MFA under a grant from the MN DNR Division of Forestry with funds from the US Forest Service to implement the Call Before You Cut program. Initially, the service will be available in four counties – Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison and Todd. The board will work to promptly expand the program to other counties.

Agreed to retain Linda Dinkel, Long Prairie, Minnesota to edit Minnesota Woodlands, our bi-monthly newsletter.



Keith Argow, president of the National Woodland Owners Association, is shown with MFA board members, l-r: Bruce ZumBahlen, Al Schacht, Dennis Thompson, Gary Michael, Keith Argow, Neal Chapman and John O'Reilly.

Interested in Serving on MFA's Board?

We are fortunate that most current members of our board of directors have agreed to stand for re-election. This makes for continuity which is essential for a volunteer organization such as MFA.

Nonetheless, this year there will be at least one vacancy to be filled. If you have an interest in serving on the board, or have some questions, contact either Al Schacht at 507-753-3214 or Bruce ZumBahlen at 651-458-0483 or via email at ZoomerBruce@aol.com.

Gifts in Memory

MFA has a policy recognizing donations made in memory of someone. The proceeds are deposited in MFA's endowment fund so that the gift can continue to grow and the income from that donation will provide support for the organization in perpetuity.

Donations were recently received from Gary Johnson in memory of Everett and Theresa Johnson, and in memory of Arlene Nelson. Thank you.

Correction

In the August – September issue of Minnesota Woodlands, Susan Gossman was misidentified as Sharon Gossman. Our apologies to Susan and Tim Gossman and to all their friends who wondered who in the world is Sharon!

Forestry Grad School Journal

By John Saxhaug

Dear MFA Friends,

On March 22nd, 1975, I graduated from the University of Minnesota's College of Forestry with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forest Resource Development. As with the majority of my classmates, the rest of my life was before me, and I had no idea where my career would ultimately lead me. Thirty-nine years later, on January 31st, 2014, I retired from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service after a career in what I would call Conservation Realty. Those intervening years were occupied with service in a range of positions in various organizations, and provided me with experiences I will never forget. However, from the day of my graduation through the end of my working years, I had a feeling that at some point in the future, I would pursue additional formal education, possibly a graduate degree in forestry.



John Saxhaug, Minneapolis, is a former MFA board member and current chair of the Land Committee.

Fast forward to September 2nd, 2014: the first day of classes at the University of Minnesota's College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences. I am a first-year graduate student in the Department of Forest Resources and am part of the Natural Resource Science and Management - Forests: Biology, Ecology, Conservation and Management – Master of Science Program. I am taking only one class this semester: Landscape Ecology taught by Dr. Lee Frelich. Lee is also my program advisor.

John O'Reilly, after hearing of my plans to attend graduate school, asked if I would pass on some of my thoughts and experiences to MFA members. Thinking that it would give me an opportunity to do some writing and share my experiences with others, I agreed to do it. What will follow in the next couple of missives are some of my thoughts and observations. I hope they will be interesting not only to foresters and retirees, but to anyone with an interest in forestry.

Notes on the Intercampus Bus from Minneapolis to St. Paul:

- These students are much younger than I remember from my undergraduate days!
- The Intercampus bus is much faster than in my day. It has its own roadway between campuses, shared only with bicycles: a short 20-minute trip.
- It appears that at least half of my fellow students are totally absorbed by their smart phones. No eye contact.
- A young woman stopped and let me on the bus in front of her. Do I look that old? I need to get rid of this gray beard.

Notes on first day in class:

- I still have "first day of school" butterflies in my stomach from the unknown ahead.
- These students are much younger than I remember from my undergraduate days!!
- The class is in Skok, not Green Hall. Where did this building come from? Richard Skok was the Dean of the College of Forestry when I was an undergraduate.
- Few students seem to be taking notes because there is a Class Web Site, the Moodle Site. The class presentation and handouts are posted there.
- What happened to the coat and tie? The professors are dressed casually.
- When I asked how professors should be addressed, Dr. Frelich said "call me Lee". I can deal with that!
- Do I really want to return to school?

Northern Firewood in Short Supply

According to the September 22, 2014 Star Tribune, firewood in the northern part of the state is in such short supply that one woman living in Hermantown near Duluth had to purchase wood from a supplier in Stillwater. According to Patty Thielen, DNR northeast regional forest manager, the shortage is due to a hard winter, propane prices that went over \$5 per gallon and a wet spring and summer.

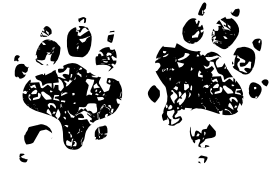
Current firewood regulations are a little complicated. Under a quarantine by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, firewood may not be moved OUT of Hennepin, Ramsey, Houston, Winona and Olmsted counties. Further, only DNR-certified wood can be brought into state parks and other state-managed lands. Otherwise, woodland owners are free to cut firewood for their own use or to be given or sold to neighbors or nearby friends.





Photo by Carrol Henderson.

Creature Feature



by Jodie Provost, DNR Private Land Habitat Coordinator

Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*) – Nature's Eating and Sleeping Machines

By the time you read this newsletter, most black bears in Minnesota will be slumbering in their dens after devouring as many calories as possible in the last few months. Not a bad life, huh?! Black bears are currently the only species of bear in Minnesota, and one of three bear species in North America, along with brown (grizzly) and polar bears. Grizzlies may have inhabited Minnesota's western prairies when bison still roamed the prairies and grizzlies followed the herds.

North American Range: Black bears once inhabited nearly all of the forested areas of North America. Today, they survive only in remote areas of the East and Southeast, have been extirpated from some Midwestern states by intensive agriculture and human settlement, and are listed as threatened in other states, while nearly of pest status in western states and Canada. Minnesota has a healthy population in its northern forest and intermixed forest/agricultural areas where they utilize areas of dense cover and forage in forest openings and fields.

A Bear of Many Colors: Black bears come in more colors than any other North American mammal species. They can be black, brown, cinnamon, blond, blue-gray, or white. In Minnesota and states east of the Great Plains, most are black, with 5-10% being brown. In the West, where they feed in more open meadows and park-like forest, over half are lighter, likely an adaptation to reduce heat stress. They vary in size from 150 pounds for a small female to 500 pounds for a large male. Their large head, small eyes, erect ears, stout legs, very short tail, reasonable eyesight and hearing, and exceptionally keen sense of smell (even better than your dog's!) are characteristic features.

Not Picky Eaters: Black bears can never be labeled picky eaters. As omnivorous opportunists, they consume whatever they find available, especially plants, including grasses and forbs in spring, berries in summer, and acorns and hazelnuts in fall. Animals such as ants, beetles and deer fawns are also eaten. Being highly mobile, they often roam great distances in a fall migration, following their noses and mental maps in search of food-rich areas to pack on fat. Bear hunters are able to capitalize on their voracious appetites to lure them into baits with sweet treats such as gummy worms, trail mix and frosting (a "secret" recipe used by a friend). Apparently, the very large marshmallows used for s'mores can cause

a small bear to choke, so don't use them unless you wish to get up close and friendly with a bear to perform the Heimlich. If ever a wild animal had a reality TV show the equivalent of "Man vs. Food", it would be a black bear!

A New Northwest Minnesota Home: A recent bear study by Dr. Mark Ditmer underscores black bears' ability to find food, learn and expand their range. Mark studied the behavior and diet of black bear in northwest Minnesota where they are relatively new inhabitants. He found the easy pickings of high calorie corn, sunflower and oat crops have a profound effect on bear behavior, home range and their weight and fat thickness, despite being just two to four percent of the land area. The majority of crop use was by adult males and sows without cubs of the year. Younger bears and sows with cubs of the year foraged in crops much less.

When not utilizing crops (primarily in the fall), bears were on the move. Male bears in northwest Minnesota boasted the largest home range size ever recorded for the species, 1,129 square miles. In comparison, the average for all male bears in Minnesota was 333 square miles, while the average in North America is about 58 square miles. Great variability exists in home range sizes of bears. Sows' home ranges are generally smaller, with a male's home range overlapping that of multiple sows.

In the 1990s, when working as the assistant wildlife manager at Karlstad in far northwest Minnesota, I experienced a very unusual bear year. Typically, we registered ten or fewer bears, but during one fall with poor natural foods, bears roamed extra far and wide, coming west from the forest and finding a farmland banquet. We registered over 70 bears that year! Bears have remembered the food supply, and the population has since increased and expanded into the area.

Fall Foods Report: This year, reports from wildlife managers around the state reflect a bit above average fall food supply for bears. The wild berry crop was very good throughout most of our bear range, including bumper crops of blueberries, raspberries, cherries, red-osier dogwood and juneberries reported in many places. Acorn production from our oaks appears to be about average in most of the range, and hazelnuts average to above average in most locations. Bears should have found it relatively easy to build fat reserves this year.

Pesky Bears: Although black bears generally avoid humans but, much to our consternation, they do forage on bird feed, garbage, tasty remnants on our grills, bee hives and crops. Several years ago, bears gnawed \$60,000 worth of damage to 20 power poles in northern Minnesota. The best way to be rid of nuisance bears is to remove or protect what's attracting them.

Best Napper Award: Black bears are solitary critters, except for sows and cubs, during mating season, and if sharing a dumpster. Mating peaks in June to July and two to three cubs are born in January or February while the sow is denning in any variety of structures from a fallen tree to a bed of cattail. The better her body fat and condition, the greater the chance she'll produce more young. While denning over winter, a black bear's heart rate drops, but its body temperature does not and it can wake rapidly. Thus, they are not true hibernators. For as long as six or seven months, they live off stored body fat, recycling body wastes and waking in spring with little loss of muscle mass or strength. Families leave the den in early April and cubs stay with the sow for about 17 months, denning with her again when one year old. Sows, therefore, reproduce just once every two to three years.

Oldest Bear Ever: The world's oldest-known bear died in northern Minnesota in summer 2013 at the ripe old, amazing age of 39½. A more typical bear, if it lives to be "old", makes it into its twenties. Known as No. 56, this sow was radio-collared by our DNR bear researchers at age seven as part of



This photo was taken by Sherri Eilertson at St. Croix State Park during a Memorial Weekend camping trip. To obtain a copy, contact Sherri at SEilertson@LakeviewIndustries.com.

a long-term study. She produced 23 cubs over 32 years, outlived by 19 years all other 360 radio-collared bears in the study, and was almost six years older than the second oldest bear known to science. Her relatively remote home range, discreet nature and perhaps a little luck, likely contributed to her longevity. But I like to think it was Minnesota's good living!

Harvest and Population: Black bears are valued and protected in Minnesota as a game species. The harvest runs from September 1 to mid-October. In 2013, an estimated 6,300 hunters harvested 1,866 bears, the lowest number in at least 20 years. A lower harvest was a goal, plus the abundance of wild bear foods was the highest in 15 years, likely affecting hunter success. DNR has strived to increase the bear population in recent years after a number of years with harvests over 2,500 bears that were intended to reduce human-bear conflicts. The largest harvest in the

past 20 years was 4,956 in 1995. The population is currently estimated at 12,000–15,000 bears. It's estimated through a population restructuring process. The bear tooth which successful bear hunters must submit is vital to providing age data for this process. The primary predator of black bears is humans through hunting, poaching, car kills and depredation control. Other bears and possibly wolves also cause mortality.



George Anderson, Wrenshall, is MFA's premier bud capper, doing thousands of white pines each fall. See his story in the December 2009 - January 2010 issue of our newsletter, Minnesota Woodlands. Go to our web site, www.MinnesotaForestry.org and click on "Newsletters".

Forester Phone Line Update

Recent calls that Dean Makey handled over our Forester Phone line included a young white oak tree on which the leaves started turning brown and falling about September 1st. After further questioning, Dean diagnosed the problem as oak anthracnose, advised the member on what to do now and mailed literature with more information.

A second question had to do with a member who planted white pine cones last spring and was wondering why no small pines sprouted. Dean explained how the seeds have to be removed from the cones in the fall and planted individually in the spring.

In yet another call, a member asked about bud capping. Dean advised doing bud capping in October, after many of the leaves have fallen from deciduous trees and shrubs, so the small pines are easier to find. In addition, Dean provided these tips:

1. Secure the bud cap with about three staples, tight against the stem on the bottom. Leave a wide opening on the top to allow the terminal bud lots of room to grow out of the cap in the spring.
2. If possible, take the caps off in the spring. This will eliminate the possibility of a leader getting "bound up" in the cap when it starts growing. Removal also prevents insect damage to the tree inside the cap.

MFA's Forester Phone Line is a free service exclusively for MFA members. Just call 218-326-6486 to set up a call with forester Dean Makey.

2014 Wisconsin Coverts Project

“Coverts”, a Woodland Wildlife Management Program for Private Landowners held in Woodruff, Wisconsin, was a huge success again this year. Two MFA members attended. In the photo, Ray Renstrom, Cambridge, is seated third from the left. Dave Medvecky Isanti, is standing in the center.

Dave Medvecky said the facility was wonderful. They stayed in log cabins built in 1927 by a wealthy lumberman. The educational program was full and very interesting. And the meals, prepared and served family style, made for great comradery.

Likely dates for the 2015 event are August 20 – 23, 2015. As in the past, sponsors cover all costs, including food and lodging, so your only cost is transportation to Woodruff,



Wisconsin. If you would like to attend the 2015 event, express your interest now to event coordinator Jamie Nack at JLNack@Wisc.edu. Then, in January, check the web site to confirm dates and download an application: <http://forestandwildlifeecology.wisc.edu/coverts>



Owned by an organization related to the Coop, the Valby Chipper and Peterson Sawmill are available to members for use on their land.



John Treichler's prototype, self-propelled combination winch and log splitter.

Northwoods Forestry Co-op Field Day

The Northwoods Forestry Cooperative is based in the Brainerd area and has members throughout the state. Their annual field day was held on a beautiful Saturday September 27th at Pat and Emily Lanin's land near Brainerd.

Following coffee with blueberry muffins and an introduction by Pat Lanin, Crow Wing County Forester Bryan Pike led a walk down some of the Lanins' six kilometers of trails. Features along the way included a terminal moraine left by the ancient glacier, an abandoned beaver pond, mixed hardwood stands, a tamarack bog, and spruce and balsam stands.

Pat Lanin demonstrated his Farmi Winch attached by the three-point hitch to a 30-horsepower New Holland tractor. Lanin pulled a 17-foot by 24-inch black ash log from a ravine. This tree and two others were felled by a recent windstorm. Pat says that together they will yield about 300 board feet of high quality ash lumber plus at least two cords of firewood.

After lunch there was a chainsaw safety presentation followed by demonstrations of equipment used in low impact logging as well as the coop's Peterson sawmill and Valby chipper.

The most unique piece of equipment demonstrated was a prototype of an all-purpose, self-propelled combination winch and log splitter. Made by local welding/fabrication shop owner, John Treichler, the unit can be driven to the worksite in the woods where it can be used to winch a log into place and then, after cutting, split the wood into usable chunks of firewood.

For more information about the Northwoods Forestry Coop, contact President Pat Lanin at PELanin@Brainerd.net or 218-764-3315.

Women's Woodland Network News – Chainsaw Safety Class

By Kim Chapman

A beautiful September Saturday morning 10 women met in Bloomington, Minnesota, to learn about chainsaws. Their reasons for coming were varied:

"I am an arborist and do not have hands-on experience."

"My dad is aging and needs my help."

"I have a project I need to get done and would like to do it myself."

"I am single and have been doing it myself, I thought it was time to take this class to make sure I am doing it right."

"I came from South Dakota to be able to take this class."

Those who had access to a chainsaw, either one they owned or from a family member, brought them. One determined future lumberjill purchased one on her way to class saying, *"They told me I could return it as long as it hadn't been used."*

The class covered information that would be covered in any chainsaw safety class: how to hold the saw, stand safely, kneel safely, about kickbacks, built-in safety features of saws, how to place the chain on, clean the air filter and recoil the rope when it breaks. We learned tips about gas and oil, when we likely would need a dealer to look at our saws versus what we could handle ourselves. We also learned that with the aging population, men as well as women, the manufacturers of saws were making the pull easier. This translates into a benefit for women since physiologically, we are not as strong, on average, as men. One woman piped in, *"That's why my dad needs help. He cannot start the saw anymore because of his shoulder."*

Designs that create easier starting, what a great concept! This led to a conversation about what else might be unique to women. We talked about safety equipment, chaps, helmets, shields, goggles, boots and gloves. While our instructor, Alex Bildeaux, Jr., of Bildeaux Services, wasn't aware of specific lines for women, we did discuss the availability of a wide range of sizes in all of these items that likely would allow for us to find sizes that would work for us.

Opportunity is here for families who have generations coming up to take over the family woods. Keep the females as engaged as the males. Perhaps there is also an opportunity here for the manufacturers to think about a new demographic for their products.

Thank you to the Metro Chapter Minnesota Women's Woodland Network and MFA Metro Chapter, coordinated by Barb Spears, MFA Metro Chapter Chair, for hosting this important event. For more information on the Minnesota Women's Woodland Network, email Barb at Barb@TWFLLC.com



Membership Application

For New and Renewing Members

Name _____

Name _____
(second person for Family membership)

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please make any address changes above

Membership Categories

Renewing members, your membership will be extended by 12 or 36 months as you choose.

Category	One Year	3 years
Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40	<input type="checkbox"/> \$120
Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$225
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 - \$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,500 - \$3,000
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> One-time payment of \$1,000**	
Perpetual*	<input type="checkbox"/> One-time payment of \$3,000**	

**Perpetual Membership is for any estate, corporation, limited liability company, limited liability partnership or similarly structured entity. A Perpetual Membership is entitled to one vote. Call MFA for more information.*

***80% of dues from Life and Perpetual Memberships go into MFA's Endowment Fund.*

Mail this application with your check to:

Minnesota Forestry Association
P.O. Box 496, Grand Rapids MN 55744

1-2014

Upcoming Events

Find more events, and more information on these events, at the MFA website, www.MinnesotaForestry.org or by calling MFA at 218-326-6486.

Saturday, October 18, 2014

- 9a.m. – 4p.m. Conservation Grazing Brush Control with Goats (The Creamery in Rushford MN). Learn about this interesting and innovative approach to using goats to control brush in this free event. Indoor sessions will be followed by afternoon visits to two sites that have been grazed by goats.

Friday, October 24, 2014

- 10a.m. – 5p.m. Intergenerational Land Transfer Family Workshop (Cabela's in Rogers MN) For more information on this very popular workshop, see <http://z.umn.edu/landtransfer>

Fall Webinar Series

- Wednesday, October 29 – Art from the Forest
- Monday, November 10 – Forest Cultivated Mushrooms: A Rotten Business
- Friday, December 12 – Forest Botanicals: Deep and Tangled Roots
- All run from 1-3p.m. For more information, go to <http://www.myminnesotawoods.umn.edu/> and under "Search MyMinnesotaWoods" enter "Fall Webinar Series".

Thursday & Friday, October 30 & 31, 2014

- Bat-Friendly Forestry Workshop and Field Tour (Aitkin MN) For more information see http://www.dovetailinc.org/programs/land_use/bat_friendly_forest_management.

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

- 12p.m. – 1 p.m. What to plant? Forest health for the future (Online). For more information see <http://z.umn.edu/2014webinars>.

Friday & Saturday, May 15 & 16, 2015

- MFA's Annual Meeting and Spring Field Day will be held at the Sawmill Inn in Grand Rapids in conjunction with the U of M's Minnesota Family Woodlands Conference.
- Also check the Sustainable Forest Education Cooperative website (<http://sfec.cfans.umn.edu/>) for seminars and webinars of interest to natural resource professionals and interested landowners.

For MFA members, the two best online sources of woodland information are the MFA website, www.MinnesotaForestry.org and www.MyMinnesotaWoods.UMN.edu.

MyMinnesotaWoods.org
Your source for woodland stewardship advice



Thinking of harvesting timber from your land?

Call Before You Cut

You will be sent a packet of information with no cost or obligation to you.

218-326-6486

MFA's *Forester Phone Line*

A free service for MFA members only!
Call for an appointment with the forester:
218-326-6486